

OzCon on the move with new secretary and new members

From the President

We have a new Secretary.

Following consultations with Board members and Sharon Tiainen, who has been Secretary since November 2009, an approach was made to Colin Higgins to see if he would be willing to take on the role. The reasons for the change are quite simple – Sharon lives outside Vienna with husband Chris and finds it difficult to get to the big smoke for functions. But more importantly, both work in the oil industry and therefore are away a lot. Colin also works in the oil industry and travels a lot. But he lives in Vienna and so will be closer to hand when things need doing.

The fact is, all committee members share responsibility and each of us do what is required when required. So we welcome Colin and say thanks to Sharon. I hope you all get a chance to meet Colin soon.



Sharon and Colin

I asked Colin to tell us about himself and his work as a way of introduction and this is what he wrote: (I like the bit about being a wine producer)

“I am an OMV Geologist and Well Engineering (drilling) specialist and have been living in Vienna since

March 2010. My association with Wien (and OzCon) goes back to 2005 when I started making long business trips to Vienna as a sort of month about rotation from OMV's Perth office. This can be the sort of fly in - fly out rotation people dream of but it is quite tough on both mind and body. Now based here, most of the flying is to OMV's many branch offices, and I have visited Yemen, Dubai, Tunisia, Iran, Kurdistan Region of Iraq, UK, Norway, New Zealand, Turkey, Libya, Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and many other locations as well as almost weekly trips to OMV Petrom in Bucharest so I am still able to top up the air miles.

I had attended some OzCon functions and bar nights as a guest prior to relocating to Vienna and was aware of the benefits so made sure that I joined soon after I arrived.

I have some experience in volunteering my time having spent over seven years on the management committee and as a 'flag officer' of my yacht Club in Perth, but hope that the OzCon role won't balloon to the 20-30 hours a week that I was committing to the yacht club! Of course my list of interests is topped by yacht racing but extend as far as wine production (and consumption), golf, art, music and travel (luckily I guess!).

I am married to Gail and we have two grown up (mostly!) children Mathieu 24 and Sophie 21 although the offspring only come to Vienna to visit. I am looking forward to assisting Brett and his hard working committee in the months ahead and would be delighted to work with the whole OzCon membership to get a range of fun, interesting and enjoyable events onto the calendar for the year ahead. I encourage all members to come forward with any ideas that they would like me to explore as possible OzCon events over the next year or two.”

Thanks Colin. Just to end for this month, I am also happy to say that with the start of the new school year which usually means the arrival of Aussie teachers, we have some new members to meet, plus others who are not in the teaching profession. So folks, get active and we hope to see you soon.

A first for Lunch Out: a new member who was not yet born!!

Our Lunch Out hostess, Jeanette Hannaford, chose a lovely spot for last month's lunch which was attended by no fewer than 14 (15 if we took into account the status of one attendee).

We returned to the convivial Glacis Beisl above the Museums Quarter and had a table beneath the trees.

There were some new members and we welcomed Lyndy Smart (4th on left), a pharmacist, and her friend Sonja Slinger (5th on left).



We look forward to more new members joining future lunches.

Also at her first OzCon function was Liz Webster (2nd on left). Liz is to take up the position of Consul at the Australian Embassy in place of Paul Addison who, with his wife Dow, returned to Canberra in late August where he is now Consular Emergency Centre Manager.

Liz was here relieving Paul for a while and says she is thrilled to have been appointed to the position. But first she must return to Australia for briefings after which she will return to Vienna with her husband Mark in late November or December. She has promised to join OzCon on her return.

Also present was Jane Welsh (1st on left), who was very pregnant. When Jane told us that her baby was due at anytime we didn't realise just how soon. It was Sunday when we got the news that the baby had arrived in this world at 12.14 am that day.

The newest and youngest OzCon member is Finn Alexander Welsh-Williams who weighed in at 3.6 kg and was all 52 cm long. Our congratulations to mum Jane and husband Eric.

New book on exhibiting Indigenous art in Europe



Congratulations to OzCon member Eleonore Wildburger for publication of her book *The cultural design of Indigenous Australian art*.

Eleonore is lecturer at the University of Klagenfurt on culture studies, Australian studies, and Indigenous Australian studies.



Born in Austria, she has an MMA (English literature and linguistics; Italian literature and linguistics) and PhD (culture studies; Indigenous Australian studies).

Eleonore was asked to tell us about her work. This is what she wrote:

“The book, a cross-cultural analysis of Indigenous Australian art, is the result of a many-year long cross-cultural research project. Three paintings by Anmatyerre artists Lucy Ngwarai Kunoth, Helen Kunoth Ngwarai and Cindy Morton Petyarre from Utopia (NT) serve as model cases for defining a cross-cultural art category. This leads to a discussion on exhibition concepts of three European museums (Musée du Quai Branly, Paris; Museum Albertina, Vienna; Essl Collection, Klosterneuburg) in regard to cross-cultural codes of co-operation. I suggest that in cross-cultural exhibitions the ‘cultural design’ of an artwork, appropriately taken into account, may not only improve the visitors’ cross-cultural sensitivity, but also increase their appreciation of (and enjoyment with) the artworks on display.”

Travel tip

The magnificent Dolomites

We are so spoiled. There are so many places to go within easy reach of Vienna.

Here's a tip for one of them that is really worth seeing – **the Val Gardena (Gardena Valley) in the magnificent Dolomite mountains in northern Italy.**

<http://val.gardena.info/en/journey-location/val-gardena-location.html>

Best way to get there: Put the car on the train to Innsbruck. Cost for the car, about €70. Drive over the Brenner Pass, take a left to the Val Gardena. Distance to hotel about 120 km.

Recommended hotel: There are dozens in the three villages in the valley. We stayed at the family run Hartmann Hotel in the village of St Ulrich (German name), or Ortisei (Italian) or Urtijei (the local and ancient language called Ladin). Ask for a room facing the valley.

http://www.hartmann-hotels.com/en/hartmann_offerte_4giorni.asp



Hotel Hartmann in St Ulrich

Best way back to Vienna: optional. Either drive back over the Brenner Pass and use the

autobahn, or drive east through the Dolomites (about 200 km over three high passes) and join the autobahn to Villach, Klagenfurt and Graz.

The scenery in this part of the world is breathtaking. We spent three days exploring the nearby mountains, a different mountain on each day. We used cable cars or chairlifts and chose a high point to have a picnic lunch followed by a walk to the nearest 'hutte' for coffee.



On the last day we walked down Mont Pana to the valley below (left)

The hotel is well known for its food

and so half-board is recommended. Each evening meal was five or six courses and we made our selections at

breakfast from a menu printed in English. There were German and Italian guests who had menus in their language.

For example, our first night menu was 1. salad from the buffet. 2 buffalo mozzarella with wild boar salami and tomato bruschetta. 3. sugar beet consomme with shredded pancakes and chives or Sardinian gnocchi with sausage, parsley and pepper or lasagnette with bolognese and chanterelles. Main course: loin of suckling pig with speck dumplings OR rolls of veal stuffed with ham and sage, saffron rice and baked zucchini...with a dish for vegetarians of smoked swordfish with orange, melon and arugola. There was a choice of four desserts.



View from Mont Des Sëura 2117m



Two cable cars to Seceda, 2518m on the top of a beautiful plateau

We were there in late August and the weather was great. But Val Gardena is a popular ski area and no doubt the winter scenery would be equally magnificent.

If you have a travel tip for members please let me know – *Brett*

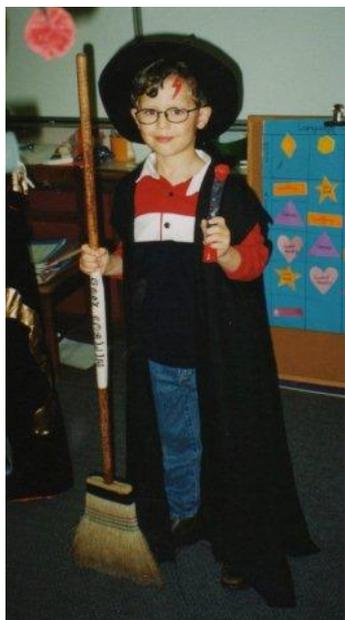


The Hannaford family and Harry Potter

By Jeanette Hannaford

Harry first came into our lives on a hot summer afternoon in 1999 as we were lying by the pool at the British Consulate's residence in Jerusalem. The Consulate's son was reading a new book, and Portia, a little girl who devoured books, picked it up while the boys were swimming and was rapidly hooked.

The afternoon ended, but the book turned up in our lives again later that year when we returned to live in Australia. Harry Potter's fictional age paralleled Portia's real age as the books were released, an extra bonus for a lucky group of children. Portia loved the first book and, as was our custom, Harry Potter was then commissioned as the next bedtime read so that Portia could share the joy with Henry and me. We were all hooked.



Henry started school in Australia and one of the highlights of the children's year was a 'dress-up as a book character' day. There was no question as to who it would be, and thankfully, toy glasses, dark hairspray and a scar is a manageable proposition for a non-sewing mother. When we arrived at school Mrs Hubbard, the librarian, asked Henry who he was. Henry lifted his hair a little so she could clearly see the scar. She had no idea. The next

year however there were at least 20 Harry Potters and the mania had really kicked in.

Travelling on in our family experience, in 2004 we moved (back) to Vienna. I remember walking to my German class with OzCon member Jacquie in that first summer, surrounded by newsagents and bookshops spilling over with marketing for the latest HP book which was soon to be released.

On our 2007 summer holiday before the long awaited last book exploded into the western world with much marketing hype, the children took all previous six volumes on holiday with us, so that they could reread the whole series and be truly prepared for the last instalment.

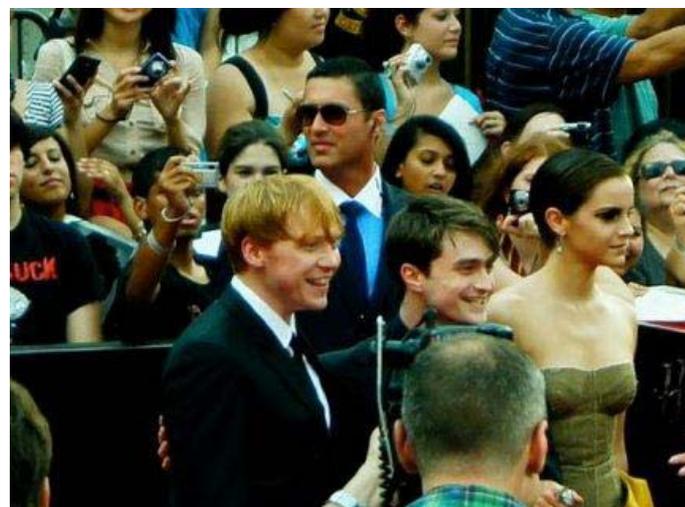
We also loved the films. On the very day of my

daughter's eighteenth birthday, the sixth film was released. Portia wanted to go to the first session, so I queued at the Burg Kino, increasingly suspiciously, with a small group of university age students, perhaps travellers passing through Vienna, who like us expected crowds. When the box office opened I obtained the best seats in the house. The other group placed themselves further along the first row of the balcony. I think we may have been the only ones in the cinema.

The next film arrived with Portia away at university and Henry apologetically slinking off to see it with his friends. Simon, who hadn't read any books and had only seen the first one or two films, came along with me to see it but had little idea about what was happening. The films really rely on the audience knowing where they are up to in the story.

This year the final film in the Harry Potter series was released in New York amazingly again on Portia's (20th) birthday. We had a great birthday dinner out and then went to see it at the enormous Imax cinema in Times Square.

To add to the excitement of it all, a few days before the public opening there was the red carpet celebrity opening at the Lincoln Centre. Henry went strolling up there quite nonchalantly late in the afternoon to sneak a peek and had a lucky break when he was invited to a prime viewing spot, far in front of all the poor fans who had probably waited outside in the heat all day. Henry came home with some enviable photographs and we all wished we had gone!



The imposters

Events

Rugby World Cup 2011



For those interested in the Rugby World Cup being played in New Zealand, here is an outline of the finals schedule. Matches are being televised live at sports bars around town, including Flanagans and the 1516 Brewing Company.



Times are converted to Vienna time.

While it has not been planned at time of writing to attend a particular game, those who are interested might like to get together with colleagues at their own choosing. Also, when it is known who is playing in the finals we might like to call together an OzCon group for an early drink in one of the bars. Countries you might be interested in and their pools are: NZ pool A, England B, Australia C and South Africa D.

Details at: www.rugbyworldcup.com

Quarter Finals

Saturday October 8, 8 am

Winner Pool C v runner up Pool D

Saturday October 8, 10:30 am

Winner Pool B v runner up Pool A

Sunday October 9, 8 am

Winner Pool D v runner up Pool C

Sunday October 9, 10:30 am

Winner Pool A v runner up Pool B

Semi Finals

Saturday October 15, 11:00 am

Winner QF1 v winner QF2

Sunday October 16, 11:00 am

Winner QF3 v winner QF4

Bronze Final

Friday October 21, 10:30 am

Runner up SF1 v runner up SF2

FINAL

Sunday October 23, 11:00 am

Winner SF1 v winner SF2

Lunch Out

Lunch Out Explores New Territories in October. Please join us on **Friday 14 October** at 1.00pm for

Lunch Out. The venue will be Meinel's Winebar, downstairs at Julius Meinel on the corner of the Graben and Naglergasse. (Don't go upstairs to the restaurant or to the café at the front!)

<http://www.meinlamgraben.at/Page.aspx?target=229089&l=2&>



Fernando Botero (b. 1932) - The First Lady, 1989, Oil on canvas - 80 x 65 inches - Private Collection

This will be followed by an optional visit to the newly opened Botero exhibition at the Kunsthaus Forum on Freyung. This is the first time the Colombian figurative artist Botero has been shown in Vienna and it is likely to be a very successful exhibition.

While the images you will see on the promotional posters around Vienna in the coming weeks may seem very charming, Botero works with a strong social conscious, having focused on and then generously donated works illuminating important issues such as the drug cartels of his native Columbia and the USA's treatment of prisoners during the Iraq war. RSVP to jeanettehannaford@yahoo.co.uk.

Australian Chamber Orchestra to perform in Vienna

We mentioned last month that the Australian Chamber Orchestra will perform at the Musikverein on Wednesday 30 November and Sharon Tiainen has offered to purchase tickets for anyone who would like to accompany her and husband Chris. Early days, but to date she has received only one response.

"If you are keen to join us please get back to me on sharonchris@westnet.com.au so I can get an initial idea of numbers. Tickets go on sale on 30 September and Sharon is also willing to organise a pre-concert meal if people are interested.

October Bar night

Venue to be decided and members will be notified by email.

Christmas Function

For planning purposes, the Australian Embassy has notified OzCon that its Christmas function for OzCon and Austrian-Australian Society members has been scheduled for Friday 9 December from 18:00-20:00. Details of RSVP will be made known at a later date.

Eating out tip

Nice place to eat while the sun shines, but hurry because it closes on 1 Nov. through to April.

Neu Brasilien on the Alte Donau

Fish and Viennese cooking



An der unteren
Alten Donau 61
1220 Vienna
Tel 01-203-1292

This month's OzCon flashback



*Christmas dinner with Ambassador Peter Shannon,
December 2008*

Extracts from 'The true blue guide to Australian slang'

Fruitcake, fruitloop

A loony, someone slightly mad. *Nutty as a fruitcake*

Proverbial

Used as a substitute for a rude word, ie 'in the proverbial' means in the shit.

Legless

So drunk that your legs no longer carry you steadily

Competition



Sorry about the poor quality of the photo, but it is a photo of a reproduced newspaper clipping from the Canberra Times of 1 January 2008. The original photo was taken from a file and dates back to the seventies when Bob Hawke was still president of the ACTU. The competition is to guess the identity of the guy with all the hair (not the one holding the microphone but the one standing next to ABC tv newsman at the time Ken Begg). There might be a prize but you will have to attend a bar night to collect.

A helpful website

Ever wondered how many Australian ex-pat associations and websites like OzCon there are around the globe? There are many and only when one is in a foreign city do you usually hear about them. And so I was pleasantly surprised when someone pointed me in the direction of one site that lists 46 such organisations in Asia, Europe, USA, Canada and the Middle East.

The site is www.exfin.com and it has been added to the list of websites on the back page of our newsletter. If you open the site and go to the bottom of the list of services and resources you will find "Australian Expatriate Links" and if you go down to Europe you will see that **OzCon now sits right on top under Austria**. This link is to our website.

Exfin is located in Adelaide and so when I contacted them with the request to add OzCon and mentioned it was my home town, they said this "does get you a few extra points."

Exfin offers a huge range of services to expatriate Australians and future migrants to Australia. Established in 2005, it provides "easy, reliable and cost effective access to quality professional and financial services."

These range from financial planning and tax advice to pension transfers, international retirement, foreign currency mortgages, European mortgages, life, health and travel insurance, expatriate jobs, accommodation, banking and advice on voting overseas.

Exfin points out that it is a commercial site, "with revenue coming from a variety of sources including marketing and operational support from the service providers, referral payments or commissions where appropriate, as well as advertising and sponsorship. None of this support results in any service costs to Exfin users except in areas where we offer direct services and clearly set out the applicable fees."-- *Brett*

Aussie News Briefs

30 Sept. - **THE global financial crisis delivered a hit of about \$40 billion to Australia's federal budget revenue last financial year**, figures released today will show. They will also reveal a \$2 billion hole in the 2010-11 revenue, compared with what was expected in the May budget. The discrepancy has mainly been caused by lower-than-expected company tax receipts and a shortfall in tax collected on wages. (Age)

29 Sept - **WESTERN Australia's entire coal industry is poised to fall into foreign hands** after Wesfarmers agreed to sell its Premier Coal mine to a Chinese state-controlled entity, prompting Premier Colin Barnett to raise concerns about security of supply. The \$300 million deal follows Indian power giant Lanco Infratech's \$800m purchase earlier this year of rival coalmine Griffin Coal, which is also based near Collie in WA's southwest. The two big mines feed the power stations that supply almost all of the state's electricity at a time of soaring demand sparked by the resources boom. (Australian)

27 Sept. - **WOMEN will be able to serve as Australian special forces and infantry soldiers within five years** following a greenlight by federal cabinet for the removal of gender-based discrimination in frontline military roles. Defence Minister Stephen Smith today announced a staged-removal of restrictions preventing women from serving in the seven per cent of military roles currently off limits for women. "In the future your role in the defence force will be determined on your ability, not on the basis of your sex," Mr Smith said. (Australian)

25 Sept. - **QUEEN Elizabeth II will embark on a state royal visit to Western Australia next month** to officially open the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Perth. (West Australian)

23 Sept. - **LABOR powerbrokers are standing by Julia Gillard** despite discontent among Labor MPs about her failure to deliver on her proposed Malaysia Solution on border security. Former prime minister Kevin Rudd's return from sick leave appears to have sparked a change of mood within the Labor caucus, with several MPs previously strongly supportive of the Prime Minister now convinced that her leadership is terminal. (Australian)



21 Sept. – **WHILE Australia's politicians go out of their way to prove they can't agree on much, they are largely united in their criticisms of ABC sitcom *At Home with Julia***. Of course, being Australian politicians they have to find something to disagree on – in this case it is why they don't like it. The latest concern is about a "sex scene" in tonight's broadcast that includes a shot of actors playing Prime Minister Julia Gillard and "first bloke" Tim Mathieson lying under an Australian flag, apparently naked. Ms Gillard said she had no plans to watch tonight's episode, saying she that as the nation's leader, she had other things to do. (Canberra Times)

18 Sept. - **FOREIGN Minister Kevin Rudd had a run-in with airport security while flying to New York - for carrying a jar of Vegemite**. Mr Rudd was flying from Mexico City to attend next week's United Nations General Assembly meeting when his Vegemite was flagged as a potentially dangerous liquid. He tweeted about the incident, saying he needed "foreign ministerial intervention". Mr Rudd's office confirmed the incident and said he needed assistance from officials at the Mexican Foreign Service, who were escorting him to through the airport, to get the Vegemite on to the plane. (Advertiser)

16 Sept. - **FEDERAL police and customs officers have uncovered 271kg of cocaine with an estimated street value of \$200 million hidden in a shipment of lawnmowers**. It is the fifth-largest cocaine seizure in Australian history, and the largest in Victoria's. A 20-year-old Melbourne man and two Chinese nationals, aged 33 and 35, are due to appear in the Melbourne Magistrates' court today, charged with importing and attempting to possess a commercial quantity of a border-controlled drug. (Advertiser)

16 Sept. – **THE price of water is set to rise for the average Sydney household** by up to \$166 over the next four years. Sydney Water today applied to the pricing regulator, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, to raise the household water bill by 15 per cent, plus inflation, to 2015/6. (Sydney Morning Herald)

13 Sept. - **AUSTRALIAN governments are spending a lower proportion of their education funding than**

almost all OECD countries, a new report shows. And total expenditure on education in Australia is well below the OECD average. The OECD's Education at a Glance report shows Australia spends just 5.2 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) on education, compared with an average expenditure of 5.9 per cent of GDP. This places Australia equal sixth lowest out of 31 countries. (Herald Sun)

12 Sept. - **SAMANTHA Stosur has become Australia's first female grand slam singles champion in 31 years** after pulling off a stunning upset over American Serena Williams at this year's US Open final. Stosur produced the match of her life against a nervous Williams to win 6-2 6-3 in one hour and 13 minutes in front of 23,000 people on Arthur Ashe Stadium. The result made her Australia's first grand slam champion since Evonne Goolagong Cawley secured her second Wimbledon title in 1980. (Australian)

11 Sept. - **UNITED States President Barack Obama has paid tribute to Australia's steadfast and heartfelt support on the 10th anniversary of the September 11 terror attacks.** Mr Obama offered America's "enduring appreciation" and lasting affection and gratitude, in a letter he sent to Prime Minister Julia Gillard. US Ambassador Jeffrey Bleich said it was one of just three letters the President had written for the anniversary. (Herald Sun)

7 Sept. - **THE Australian economy grew surprisingly strongly in the June quarter**, rebounding from a rare contraction in the previous three months when floods hit much of the eastern seaboard. Gross domestic product (GDP) rose by 1.2 per cent in the June quarter after a downwardly revised 0.9 per cent fall in the March quarter. (Sydney Morning Herald)

3 Sept. - **JULIA Gillard maintains she will not be pushed aside and will take her party to the next election.** The Prime Minister declared yesterday she was "not going anywhere" after reports of Labor sources calling on her to quit after her controversial Malaysian people swap deal was knocked over by the High Court. (Advertiser)

**As we get older, we need some sort of levity!
So here is some old, some new, some levity**

An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100% The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, 'Your hearing is perfect.. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again.' The gentleman replied, 'Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and

three times!'

Hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital.

After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator. On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him. 'I don't know,' he said. 'She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown.'

Couple in their nineties are both having problems remembering things. During a checkup, the doctor tells them that they're physically okay, but they might want to start writing things down to help them remember...;

Later that night, while watching TV, the old man gets up from his chair. 'Want anything while I'm in the kitchen?' he asks.

'Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?' 'Sure..'

'Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?' she asks.

'No, I can remember it.'

'Well, I'd like some strawberries on top, too. Maybe you should write

it down, so as not to forget it?'

He says, 'I can remember that. You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries.'

'I'd also like whipped cream. I'm certain you'll forget that, write it down?' she asks.

Irritated, he says, 'I don't need to write it down, I can remember it!'

Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream - I got it, for goodness sake!'

Then he toddles into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes, The old man returns from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs..

She stares at the plate for a moment.' 'Where's my toast ?'

Morris, an 82 year-old man, went to the doctor to get a physical. A few days later, the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm.

A couple of days later, the doctor spoke to Morris and said, 'You're really doing great, aren't you?' Morris replied, 'Just doing what you said, Doc: 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful.'

The doctor said, 'I didn't say that.. I said, 'You've got a heart murmur; be careful.'

Unless otherwise specified, all telephone numbers are in Vienna

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Membership Fee: €20

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Mattiellistrasse 2-4, 1040 Vienna

Tel: 506740

www.australian-embassy.at

Other Associations

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Hubert Heine, General Secretary

Tel: 0676 5003058; 9847328

Heine69at@yahoo.de

www.australia-austria.at

Useful Websites:

www.australiawine.com.au

www.wien.info/en/music-stage-shows/operaperetta/open-air-opera

www.awavienna.com/publications/living-in-vienna.html

www.language-learning-advisor.com/learning-german.html

www.aussiehouseswap.com.au

www.wien.gv.at

www.nucolorvue.com.au

www.australien-lifestyle.de

www.australien-info.de

www.virtualvienna.net

www.ninemsn.com.au

www.kids-days.com/Wien/index_wien.html

www.expats.com

www.homesick.com.au

www.viennababiesclub.com

www.abc.net.au/vod/news/

www.australianaonline.com.au

www.news.com.au

www.expatriates.com

www.australia.gov.au

www.amadeus.net/home/dialing_codes/en/top.htm

www.austrain.vc

www.vienna-expats.at

www.aussiehouseswap.com.au

www.exfin.com

Austrian media in English:

Austrian Times, daily English news

www.austriantimes.at

The Vienna Review, monthly produced by Webster

University www.viennareview.net

Ether magazine, monthly www.ethermagazine.at

Worldwide media guide www.mondotimes.com

Guided Walks

Places of Human Rights, Shadow of the Past

Schonberg and Freud

Roman Findings in Carnuntum and the National Park

More information visit: www.viennawalks.at

The Old City of Vienna

The Third Man

More information visit: www.wienguide.at